

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT
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A NEW GIFT TO THE CENTER

It is gratifying to note that, in spite of the uncertainty in the Middle East, there has been no appreciable falling off in the membership of the Center nor of the interest of the Members in the aims of our organization. A tangible evidence of such interest is the recent gift of \$150., voluntarily made by a Trustee who wishes to remain anonymous, to help defray the expenses of the present representative of the Center in Egypt, Mr. Edward F. Wente, who, as announced to the Members on March 1, kindly consented to render such services for the Center as circumstances permit for the remainder of the present season. Until June 30, Mr. Wente may be reached at the following address:

c/o The United States Educational Foundation in Egypt
Tagher Building
Sharia el Shams
Garden City
Cairo, Egypt

During February and March the following letters concerning the progress of archaeological work in Egypt have been received from Mr. Wente:

LETTERS FROM EGYPT

Letter #1

Chicago House
Luxor, Egypt
Feb. 10, 1957

Dear Members:

With the Near East problems still unsolved, the status of Egyptology in this country is at the present rather uncertain, and it probably will remain so for some time to come. Two of the nations that have been among the leading in the field of Egyptology have been barred from further work in Egypt. The French Institute in Cairo has been sequestered by the Egyptian government; and as a result the numerous projects that the French had been undertaking here in the Ptolemaic temples, at Karnak and at Deir el Medinah will have to remain at a standstill. The Publications Department of the French Institute is still functioning under sequestration, and a new number of the Annales du Service is expected soon. Most of the French Egyptologists have left Egypt, although I know of two, Alexandre Piankoff and Louis-A. Christophe, who are still in Cairo.

Although the British have not been as active in the field in recent years, the Egyptological world will feel the loss of further excavation by Prof. Emery.

For other foreign nations, the opportunity for archaeological work here is brighter; the Department of Antiquities has given the "go ahead" signal to Egyptologists of various countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, and the United States. Report has reached me that an American expedition under the direction of Dr. Charles Muses of the Falcon's Wing Press will begin work immediately at the site of ancient Heliopolis, with Dr. Sami Gabra serving as Egyptologist. The Falcon's Wing Press apparently has profited from the sale of books on art, archaeology, extra-sensory perception, and Yoga to be able to sponsor this new excavation. Dr. Muses himself has written on Egyptian religion and has produced a book, East-West Fire, which attempts to link the Lankavatara Sutra with Shopenhauer's philosophy. After its work at Heliopolis the same group plans to dig at Dahshur, I suspect in the area east of the northern pyramid, where there certainly must be a wealth of material. One hopes that this expedition will maintain high standards creditable to American scholarship. At just about this time the Swiss Institute should be getting underway with its dig at Abusir under the direction of Dr. Ricke; Dr. Stock of the German Institute will also be participating.

The Department of Antiquities, directed by Abbas Bayoumi, has been continuing its work since the invasion. For the next five years no excavations will be conducted by the Department itself, but there are funds available for clearing and restoration of monuments; we can thus expect some finds to be made despite the official restriction on "excavation." Already as early as December work was resumed in the Theban necropolis to preserve the paintings in the tombs.

The Cairo Museum was closed early this Fall and to my knowledge has not yet been reopened. Precious objects were removed from display and sand-bags placed in the halls about the statues. A reopening has been promised soon.

This year is certainly one of the slowest tourist seasons that has been experienced here. In Luxor, the Luxor Hotel has been closed all these last months, and only a few guests have made use of the remaining hotels, which normally would be filled to capacity at this time of year.

Luxor

Although work in the field was curtailed during the recent crisis, the Antiquities Department has been continuing its operations in the Luxor area. It is thanks to the assiduous Inspector of Antiquities in Upper Egypt, Labib Habachi, that headway is being made at Karnak, Luxor, and across the river at the site of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple, which extends west behind the famous Colossi of Memnon.

At Karnak it is once again possible to stand at the entrance of the first great pylon and gaze down the long axis of the temple upon the granite bark-sanctuary of Philip Arhidaeus, for now the huge scaffolding has been removed from the second pylon and erected around the north tower of the third pylon of Amenhotep III, where work will begin to clear the base of the pylon and rebuild it. Just before the second pylon and north of the entrance, a colossal statue of the XXIst Dynasty king, Pinudjem I has been erected. Three years ago, Chevrier found the red granite fragments of this colossus in the ruins of the north tower of the second pylon; now the restorers have nearly completed a commendable job of fitting the pieces together and filling in the missing portions. Standing on the king's feet is a well preserved statue of his queen, a rather unique feature of this monument, in itself a rarity. Pinudjem's colossus, together with a neighboring one of Ramses II, had been erected on earlier blocks re-used as foundation stones, some of which have proved to be important, notably the blocks with incised relief from Akhenaton's Aton temple at Karnak and the now famous Kamose stela.

Passing through the entrance passage of the second pylon, one can look up at the reliefs of Harmhab, Seti I, and Ramses II. To the right as one enters the Hypostyle Hall, has been set up a podium and niche, largely reconstruction, where possibly the king may have stood during festivities in the Hall. In royal statuary it is a common feature to have the king shown with his feet treading upon the Nine Bows, symbolizing the traditional enemies of Egypt; also on actual footstools of the Pharaoh, such as those found in the tomb of Tutankhamon, this device is used. On the Hypostyle Hall podium are depicted the Nine Bows, together with figures of the various captives; and running down the center, an inscription reads: "All the plains and all the hill-country of the Fenkhu, who were ignorant concerning Egypt, are united under thy soles." It is quite likely that Ramses II, whose name is found on the niche, once stood on this very stone. Near by, a late wall that linked the south tower of the second pylon and the first of the smaller columns has been removed, revealing a scene in which Ramses II presents ointment to a hawk-headed Amon-Atum-Re. In the Hall several statues of Seti II have been placed, two of them of the king with the Amon standard and another of Seti II kneeling, with a now broken tray of offerings. Unfortunately all are now headless.

As a result of the find of important blocks in the foundations of monuments at Karnak, the Department of Antiquities has been spurred on to an intensive search for more material. Labib Habachi has expressed the hope of finding something in the foundations of the third pylon. Already in process is the excavation of the area of the famous "cachette," where were discovered years ago so many of the statues familiar to all. The location of the present activity is just south of the southeast corner of the Hypostyle Hall. The seventh pylon of Thutmose III, which forms the southern limit of this court, was already last year part of the Department's project. The statues of Thutmose III on the north side of the pylon have been carefully repaired.

This work of restoration at Karnak has been accomplished through the efforts of the government architect, Farid el Shabury, who is a modest gentleman with great capability and untiring devotion to his task.

While work goes on at Karnak, the Luxor temple is also receiving its due share of attention. The Inspector of Antiquities in Luxor, Chahata Adam, has been responsible for further clearing of the area to the north of the first pylon and the entrance passage of the pylon. It is planned to remove debris from the face of the east tower.

Across the river behind the Colossi, Mr. Helmy has been continuing the dig at the site of the mortuary temple of Amenhotep III. From all indications this temple and its surrounding structures must have occupied a considerable area, conforming with our notions of the grandiose reign of Amenhotep III. Why this temple suffered such severe destruction may be answered in the course of excavation. Possibly mud-brick was used rather extensively.

Last year fragments of a unique crocodile sphinx were found. Now work is being directed towards re-erecting two stelae, one of which was published by Lepsius. The base of a statue with names of enemy lands, which is reproduced in the Hay Manuscript, has been relocated. To prevent the area from being flooded during the inundation an earth wall has been constructed before the Colossi extending back to the desert edge.

The blocking has been removed from the entrance of the annexe in the tomb of Tutankhamon; it is planned to use this chamber for the display of funerary objects that have been stored in the treasury of the tomb.

The Oriental Institute, Luxor

Undeterred by the prospects of a serious political situation last October, the University of Chicago's Egyptologists, Professors Hughes and Nims, with their wives, made their way to Chicago House in Luxor, where the expedition has its headquarters, for the epigraphic work at Ramses III's mortuary temple. When bombs hit the Luxor airport on four different occasions, the staff, a largely reduced one since the artists from England and South Africa never did arrive, went across the river to Medinet Habu to carry on the normal routine of recording the temple scenes and texts, this work being sandwiched in between the raids - a rather unique situation in the history of Egyptology.

Although there is only one artist, Mr. Floroff, with the expedition at present, there has been enough work for the team to do in the parts of the temple that have defied photography. In the chamber devoted to the cult of the Osirid king preliminary tracings have been made of the vaulted astronomical ceiling and the curved walls incised with scenes of the king and mortuary deities. Also the columns flanking the second court have been traced. These tracings will be photographed to provide outlines from which the artist will work; and then, as has been the custom of the expedition, these drawings will be collated by two Egyptologists, thus providing a copy of the scenes and texts of extraordinary accuracy. The material from the rear portion of Ramses III's mortuary temple, when it appears, will be of great importance to the study of Amon worship as well as of the cult of the dead king, since neither the chapels of Medinet Habu nor of the Seti temple at Qurnah have been adequately published. In artistic merit the scenes from the rear portion of Ramses III's temple lag far behind his historical reliefs, a large quantity of the relief being in plaster, which is rather rapidly deteriorating. A great deal of care has been required in recording these scenes and inscriptions, for frequently only minute traces of signs and outlines exist. One wonders what will be the appearance of these walls a hundred years from now, when further dampening and consequent buckling and decay of the plastered surfaces will have occurred.

Activities

Last fall members of the Center and Fulbright scholars went on several excursions to the monuments in the Cairo area. These Sunday tours and picnics were well attended, and an attempt was made to continue Bernard Bothmer's excellent tradition. We made two trips to Saqqara, one taking in the Zoser complex and the VIth Dynasty "Rue de Tombeaux", the other including the Unas pyramid and causeway and the neighboring tombs, as well as the Serapeum and the mastabas of Ti and Ptahhotep. Journeys also were made to Abusir to visit the Vth Dynasty pyramid complexes and the mastaba of Ptahshepses and to Dahshur, where the recent excavations of Professor Fakhry were the center of interest. It is hoped that by April the outings can be resumed.

Edward F. Wente

Recently several publications have appeared in Egypt that merit attention. As evidence of the continuation of the press of the sequestered French Institute, the Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Egypte, Tome LIV, premier fascicule, has just been issued. The following comprises the contents:

Abd El-Mohsen El-Khachab, "Les hammams du Kom Trougah." Discussion of the Pholemaic and Roman baths and the numismatic finds of a resort on Lake Mareotis.

Ahmad Badawi, "Des Grab des Kronprinzem Schesschonk, Sohnes Osorkon's II. und Hohenpriesters von Memphis." Texts and photos of tomb-chamber and short list of objects found.

Ahamed Youssef Moustafa, "Reparation and Restoration of Antiques. The Golden Belt of Prince Ptah-Shepses." Photos before and after restoration of the find from the burial of an Old Kingdom prince in the vicinity of Unas valley temple.

Badawy, Alexandre, "Philological evidence about methods of construction in ancient Egypt." Discussion of the verbs used to describe building activities.

Bruyère, Bernard, "Emile Baraize" (necrology).

Bruyère, Bernard, "Une nouvelle famille de pretres de Montou trouvée par Braize à Deir el Bahri." A genealogical study of a group of priestly families of Dynasties XXI through XXVI.

Chevrier, Henri, "Chronologie des constructions de la salle hypostyle." The author believes that Harmhab was responsible for the initiation of the Hypostyle Hall project, because of the Akhenaton blocks used as foundation material.

Christophe, Louis-A., "Les trois derniers grands majordomes de la XXVIe Dynastie." The conclusion is that the chief stewards of the Divine Adoratrixes of the XXVIth Dynasty were most often royal appointees chosen from among the sons of courtisans.

Hammad, M., "Bericht uber die Restaurierung des Barkenssockels Ramses' III im Chonstempel in Karnak." Unfortunately, as Professor Nims has pointed out to me, this monument has been set up in the wrong place, since it is dedicated to Amon-Re, not Khonsu.

Kees, Hermann, "Beiträge zur Geschichte der thebanischen Vezirsfamilie Pimui." On a XXIIInd Dynasty priestly family.

Labib Habachi, "Rizkallah Naguib Makramallah" (necrology).

Lauer, Jean-Ph., "Travaux divers à Saqqarah (novembre 1953-juin 1954)" and "Recherches et travaux effectués à Saqqarah (decembre 1954-juin 1955)." Report on work at Userkaf's temple; the entrance, the "sanctuary of the South", the underground rooms of the tomb of the southern enclosure, and the serdab of the Zoser complex; the mastaba of Idout; and the semicircular space with statues of Greek philosophers near the Serapeum. Also short report on work at the new step-pyramid, and a publication of the Khamouas inscription on the Unas pyramid.

Ricke, Herbert, "Erster Grabungsbericht uber das Sonneheiligtum des Konigs Userkaf bei Abusir." Gives ground-plan and discussion of the three stages of construction. Photo of foundation inscription, the same as in AZ 80, Tafel xiv.

Vikentiev, Vladimir, "Les trois inscriptions concernant la mine de plomb d'Oum Huetat." One of the three inscriptions is dated to Psammetichos I; another gives name of the mine in enigmatic writing.

Zaky Iskander, "Description of a method of treating a dangerous case at Thebes." On the restoration of the falling painted ceiling of the tomb of Pere, no 139.

A publication that may not have yet reached America is Nadia Sauneron's Études et Publications Parues entre 1939 et 1954, Répertoire Bibliographique, a bibliography of the Ptolemaic and Roman temples, published by the French Institute at Cairo.

Egypt Travel Magazine, published by the Egyptian State Tourist Administration, frequently contains articles by prominent scholars for a popular audience. Issue no. 29, January, 1957, contains: Dr. Murad Kamel, "New Gnostic Manuscripts;" Professor L. Deimer, "The Sycamore, The Tree of Egypt;" no. 30, February, 1957 contains: Dr. H. Hickmann, "Dances of Ancient and Modern Egypt;" Professor Keimer, "Bees and Honey in Ancient Egypt," as well as six excellent black and white photographs from the mastaba of Ti.

The Bulletin of the Faculty of Arts, vol. xvii-part 1, May, 1955, published by Cairo University Press, 1956, contains the following in the European section:

Grohmann, Adolf, "Arabische Papyri...in der Universitäts Bibliothek." Accounts, judicial texts, letters mainly of the VIIIth and IXth Centuries A.D.

Vikentiev, Vladimir, "Le Dernier Conte de Chahrazade (Le Conte de Ma'rouf') et ses Sources Anciennes." The author believes that ancient Babylonian and Egyptian literary traditions survived in an Arabic tale. Draws parallels from the "Tale of Two brothers."

Girgis Mattha, "The Formulae of Demotic Taxation-Receipts and their Importance in Determining their Provenance and Date."

The Editor, "On Animal Burials in Predynastic Egypt."

Fosbrooke, H. A., "Substitute Burials." Comparison of the substitute animal burials of the Pare of Tanganyika and the beast burials of the Badarian culture.

Edward F. Wente

Letter #2

March 31, 1957

Dear Members:

On Saturday, March 17, occurred the annual celebration of the feast of Abu 'l-Haggag, one of the most festive occasions in Luxor. Following a course laid out by the mamur of the town, a large procession circumambulates the Luxor temple and its environs. The parade includes camels, dancing horses, the band of the orphan school, local soldires and police, numbers of gaily festooned donkey-carts filled with brightly garbed children, and, most important in the center of the procession, two boats drawn on carts. These felucca, provided with colored sails, are packed to capacity with children. One of these small boats is housed the year round in a court of the Abu 'l-Haggag Mosque, located within the first court of the Luxor temple itself. This local festival seems to be a survival from antiquity, the modern counterpart of the most important feast at Thebes, known as the "Beautiful Feast of Opet," when the portable barks of the Theban triad, Amon, Mut, and Khonsu, were brought from the Karnak precinct to sojourn once a year at the Luxor temple. Seeing thousands of people in the area before the temple with the pylons as a backdrop, one gets an impression of what must have been the grandeur of the Opet feast in antiquity.

At Luxor excavations have been continuing in the area north of the first pylon of Ramses II. Particularly interesting is the uncovering of the settlement located northwest of the pylon and east of the sphinx-lined avenue that led to Karnak. On the lowest level dug so far are the remains of houses and stores of the Roman period. In some cases traces of vaulted roofing have been uncovered. The vaulting starts

very gradually, almost at the base of the walls. Various vessels have been found, including huge pottery storage bins manufactured in several parts. Other finds include amulets and small utensils of Egyptian design characteristic of the Graeco-Roman period, not without artistic merit. Most important for dating purposes are the coin hoards, which are awaiting treatment in Cairo. Once the patination is removed from the coins, it should be possible to assign definite dates for the structures in the settlement. That there were troubled times in the history of this settlement is indicated both by the presence of coin-hoards and by traces of conflagration.

On higher ground to the west are the remains of houses of the Christian period. One structure, the date of which is still undetermined, contains walls with painted plaster surface; the designs, so far as discernible, are geometric and in part imitation of marble. The highest area, undergoing excavation at present, consists of Islamic dwellings.

Although we know much about the temples and tombs of the Theban area, our knowledge concerning the actual living quarters on the east side of the river has, until now, been chiefly the information furnished by demotic papyri. Now that the remains of habitations are coming to light, we may expect to enlarge our scanty knowledge about living conditions in ancient Luxor. The possibility of finding pharaonic houses below the Roman level awaits further investigation. At present we do not know how thickly settled the area around the Luxor temple was in the Empire period; consensus of opinion suggests that the city of Thebes was located east of the Karnak temple. A trial dig made recently in the area behind the Savoy Hotel revealed traces of Roman houses, suggesting that a considerable area around the Luxor temple was occupied by dwellings at that time.

At the pylon of the Luxor temple the debris from the north face of the east tower is being removed; the entrance passage between the towers is also fairly well cleared. The easternmost of the two seated colossi of Ramses II at the entrance to his pylon no longer stands half buried. That good art persists in Ramesside sculpture is shown in the well preserved body of an unnamed queen who stands by the king's right leg. Queen Nofretari is represented in the corresponding position at the left, but her statue is badly damaged. This large statue of Ramses II, like the one at the west side of the entrance to the second pylon of the Luxor temple, bore a special name "Ramses, Ruler of the Two Lands." Such colossi as these, bearing distinctive epithets, were most probably objects of popular worship, and their location in the forepart of the temple where the uninitiated gathered fits well with this assumption. The worship of statues of the living king by the populace in the New Kingdom is something that may have been much more important than we have generally believed. In some cases the public actually prayed to royal statues. So far as the people were concerned pharaoh was probably as major a divinity in the New Kingdom as he was in the Old Kingdom; our conception of the religion of the New Kingdom may be prejudiced by the extensive information we have concerning the temple cults practiced in the sanctuary by a relatively small number of initiates.

The east exterior wall of the court of Ramses II at Luxor contains, besides the poem of the battle of Kadesh, some recently cleared scenes of Ramses II attacking Syrian fortresses, only a part of which previously had been visible. These events, depicted on the right half of the wall, are magnificently conceived; especially noteworthy is a relief of pharaoh mounting his chariot while holding fast several of his enemy. For some reason the names of the Syrian fortresses have been altered, in my opinion at the time of Ramses II. A study of these scenes and

texts, executed in incised relief, remains to be made. A section of this east wall still is covered by the foundations of the Abu 'l-Haggag Mosque, to which a new stairway from the park east of the temple has been constructed.

Edward F. Wente

Letter #3

March 27, 1957

Dear Members:

I am including a few brief addenda to my earlier letters. At Karnak the area of the "cachette," has produced only minor finds. As digging proceeds deeper, Labib Habachi hopes very much to find material that had been missed in the older excavation of this court by Legrain. Later this season, when the sub-soil water subsides, the work of last season in the area south of the sacred lake will be continued. An interesting underground passage, the end of which has not yet been reached, deserves further investigation.

Chahata Adam, who has been working so diligently at Luxor, informs me that the Islamic dwellings excavated in the area northwest of the first pylon at Luxor date from the Mameluk period, of which very little is known elsewhere in Upper Egypt. It is very gratifying to see this later material handled as carefully as pharaonic remains; all too frequently in the past Islamic vestiges have been swept aside completely unrecorded in the search for more ancient material.

Across the river, at the Amenhotep III mortuary temple, the difficult task of re-erecting one of the fallen stelae is still in progress; a deep cement foundation is being prepared. These stelae, coming from what seems to have been a colonnaded court, had the unusual feature of being erected to face west towards the rear of the temple. This peculiarity reminds me of Snefru's stela from Fakhry's excavation at the so-called valley temple at Dahshur, which also faces west.

Although restoration work is continuing in the tombs of the nobles at Thebes, the tomb of Queen Nofretari desperately needs treatment; for the salts in the rock are continually causing the reliefs to crumble. At present, there are no plans for restoring the tomb; in fact, even if there were funds available, there is no technique known that can adequately save the tomb from further rapid disintegration. Expert technical advice is needed in order to prevent the exudation of salts from the wall, caused apparently by contact with the outside air.

Edward F. Wente

Recent Publication

Bulletin, Société Archéologique d'Alexandrie, no. 41 (1956), published by Société de Publications Egyptiennes, S. A. E., Alexandrie, contains the following:

Adriani, A., "Scavi e scoperte alessandrine (1949-1952)." Discusses the excavations and finds made in various parts of Alexandria. Foundations of the Hellenistic period, some as late as the 3rd century A.D., have been found in the area now occupied by the Cinema Amir (Ave. Fouad Ier and Rue Ibrahim). These remains and their orientation parallel and perpendicular to Ave. Fouad suggest the identity of this modern street with the Via Canopica of antiquity. A similar

clearing in the area of the present Cinema Radio (Rue Alexandre le Grand and Rue Amin Pacha Fikry) has also yielded Hellenistic foundations, contributing to our comprehension of the topography of the ancient city. The author then discusses the necropolis of Minet el Bassal, of which there were three sections dating from the 3rd or 2nd century B.C. to the 1st and 2nd century A.D. Some of the older material is rendered in an Egyptianizing style, with motives of Agathodaemon, Apis, and Isis. Lastly the writer turns to various recent excavations in the western necropolis at Chatby along the sea, with material as early as the end of the 4th century B.C., and the necropolis at Sidi Gaber, of the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. From the Western necropolis the material from the sepulchre of Mex, Hellenistic age, and a funerary statue of the Roman period are illustrated.

Fraser, P.M., "A Ptolemaic Inscription in Alexandria Museum." The translation of the short Greek text is: "On behalf of King Ptolemy, the son of Ptolemy and Berenike, Saviours, Archagathos, the son of Agathokles, the epistates of Libya, and his wife Stratonike, (sc. dedicated) the sacred enclosure to Sarapis and Isis" (translation Fraser's). Fraser concludes that this text dates to reign of Philadelphus and during the interval 283-279/8, because of the absence of any mention of Arsinoe II, and that it provides the clearest evidence for the existence of a single "epistates of the nome" in a Lower Egyptian nome, and that, as indicated elsewhere, the worship of Sarapis and Isis was firmly established among the Greek upper classes.

Fraser, P.M., "An Unpublished Fragment of the Memphian Decree of 196 B.C." This text is a parallel to that of the Rosetta stone. Only the Greek version, carved on the sides of the stone, remain. Illustrated.

Adriani, A., "Ipogeo dipinto della Via Tigrane Pascia." This decorated tomb of the 1st or 2nd century A.D. is in the eclectic Greek-Egyptian style with scenes of the Apis bull, and three scenes of three stages in the resurrection of the Osirid dead man, located on the rear wall in the three alcoves. A vertical snake, standing on the tip of its tail, is frequently found at the entries of this tomb and in my opinion derives from the similar motive found in the "Book of Gates" of the Theban royal tombs. The ceiling of the tomb is completely non-Egyptian. The author includes numerous illustrations from photographs and a line drawing of the ceiling.

De Gerber, C.W., "Voyages en Egypte de quelques Orientalistes Suédois."

Keimer, Louis, "Le Dauphin dans la religion de l'Égypte antique." A Hellenistic statuette of Sarapis and dolphin is the starting point for a brief discussion of the role of this animal in ancient Egyptian religion. The goddess of the 16th Lower Egyptian nome, Hat-Mehjt, is a dolphin goddess, whose name means "The First (or the greatest) among the fish," referring to the dolphin's habit of entering Nile river mouths in pursuit of small fish for food. The dolphin becomes linked with Sarapis, because the waters entering into the sea from the Nile were considered a particularly miraculous gift of Sarapis.

Edward F. Wente

Letter #4

Cairo, Egypt
May 22, 1957

Dear Members:

Last month marked the conclusion of the season's work of two foreign expeditions uncovering Old Kingdom remains in the Cairo area. At Abu Roash, the most northern of the pyramid sites, where are located the meager vestiges of the pyramid of Dedefre, Dr. Adolf Klasens of the State Museum of Antiquities at Leydon has been engaged in unearthing a First Dynasty cemetery located on the southern side of the rocky promontory. Unlike Emery's Saqqara excavations the Abu Roash dig brought to light the more modest tombs of the commoners of the First Dynasty. Roughly eighty tombs were found. Some were mat-roofed pits containing the crouched body of the owner, together with pottery jars and dishes for his afterlife. Larger rectangular tombs of unbaked mud-brick included magazines with pottery and stone, vessels of the beautiful technique characteristic of this period. A wooden roof covered the burial chamber, and a mound with a small enclosing brick wall formed the superstructure of these tombs of the more opulent members of the ancient community. Although the results of this excavation were not spectacular, Dr. Klasens plans to return next year to continue the work, because of what it reveals concerning the common people of the First Dynasty, of whom our knowledge has hitherto been relatively limited.

The main concern of the expedition of the Swiss Institute, directed by Dr. Herbert Ricke, who has been assisted by Professor Hanns Stock, of the German Archaeological Institute, has been the determination of the archaeological composition of the sun-temple of Niusere at Abu Gurob. Aside from pottery fragments, the finds had been negligible, with almost no inscribed material, but toward the close of the season a rewarding surprise came in the form of a fine schist head of a beardless king of the Fifth Dynasty wearing the crown of Lower Egypt. The head was found at the east side of a small temple of obscure nature and purpose located near the cultivation and north of the causeway leading to the valley structure. Architecturally, the layout of the complex resembles that of the Abu Gurob temple.

Two other expeditions in the region are of minor import. Nothing of importance has been uncovered in that conducted by Dr. Muses of the Falcon's Wings Press south of the Amenemhat III pyramid at Dashur, in an area excavated long ago by De Morgan. The organization plans to move to Heliopolis for further prospecting.

A minor excavation at the Delta site of Benha, made by a Polish expedition, yielded numerous inscribed stones of the Twenty-Sixth Dynasty and a so-called water-purifier.

It has been announced that Alexandria University will resume its excavations at El Ashmunein sometime this month, and that further excavation in the pyramid area will be entrusted to Cairo University. Since all formal excavation by the Department of Antiquities has been suspended, it is encouraging to see that, through their universities, Egyptian scholars will be able to continue work in the field.

The Department of Antiquities is at present lacking a Director, since Dr. Abbas Bayoumi, who had occupied the post for a year, has been relieved of his position, and a successor has not yet been appointed.

In order to stimulate tourist trade, the Egyptian State Tourist Department has made plans for the modernization of ancient sites. These plans include the installation of escalators in the tombs and the erection of casinos convenient to the monuments!

Edward F. Wente

ARCHIVES OF ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Many inquiries have reached us concerning K.A.C. Creswell and his archives relating to Islamic architecture. It is gratifying to be able to report that the School of Oriental Studies of the American University in Cairo has acquired the complete Creswell collection, including all his books, his bibliography, plates, photographs, etc. Professor Alan Horton, the head of the school reports that this acquisition represents a most valuable asset and that, along with the school's audio-visual equipment and micro-filming facilities, it will make the university an important center for students and scholars.

Mr. Creswell, long a familiar figure in Cairo, still resides in Egypt.

A RECENT FIND

Announcement has recently been made of an important find during the course of the excavation of the Swiss Institute at Abusir, mentioned by Mr. Wente in his first letter. This find is the slate head of a pharaoh of the Vth dynasty, of fine quality and practically undamaged. According to Dr. Stock, the head is the only known one of the period which shows the king in the red crown of Lower Egypt. It is about nineteen inches in height. An excellent illustration of it appears in the Illustrated London News for April 13, p. 578.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

(As pointed out in the preceding Newsletter, these references are far from comprehensive: The Secretary is largely dependent for information on offprints and communications sent to her by the members. Please address Mrs. Elizabeth Riefstahl, Executive Secretary, Postoffice Box 27, South Essex, Massachusetts.)

Aldred, Cyril, "The Carnarvon Statuette of Amun," Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, XLII, 1956, p. 3-7. This unique gold figure, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, formerly ascribed to the XVIIIth Dynasty, is here dated to the XXIIInd Dynasty. The well-illustrated article is rich in references to dateable metal figures from Egypt.

Aldred, Cyril, "Hair Styles and History," The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin, XV, No. 6, February, 1957, p. 141-147. An old controversy over the identity of a small head discovered at Tell el-Amarna and now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is here taken up. The author identifies the piece as representing a daughter of Akhenaton, chiefly on account of the style of her wig. The discussion leads to that of hair styles of the late New Kingdom and results in interesting conclusions on military "haircuts" of the period.

Kantor, Helene J., "Achaemenid Jewelry in the Oriental Institute," Journal of Near Eastern Studies, XVI, No. 1, January, 1957 (also reprinted in Oriental Institute Notes, No. 8, 1957). While not directly concerned with Egypt, this excellent discussion of the technique and design of Persian goldwork should be of value to members interested in the art of the Middle East.

Porada, Edith, "A Lyre-player from Tarsus and his Relations," from The Aegean and the Near East. Studies presented to Hetty Goldman, 1956, p. 185-208. The lyre-player described, who appears in an Iron Age scaraboid found in Tarsus, has affinities with certain Egyptian representations.

Scott, Nora, "Amun-hotpe the Magnificent," The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin, XV, no. 6, February, 1957, p. 141-147. Description of quartzite portrait-head of Amenhotep III recently acquired by the Museum.

Simpson, William K., "On the statue-group: Amun affixing the crown of the king," Journal of Egyptian Archaeology XLII, 1956, p. 118-119. A supplementary note to an article by Mr. Simpson on the same subject, which appeared in JEA XLI.

Simpson, William K., "A statuette of King Nyneter," Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, XLII, 1956, p. 45-49. Discussion of an archaic sculpture in private possession in Cairo, which is inscribed with the name of King Nyneter of the IIInd Dynasty.

Ward, William A., "The Philosophy of Death in Coptic Epitaphs," Journal of Bible and Religion, January, 1957. Another article by the same author, "Notes on Egyptian Group Writing," will appear in the Journal of Near Eastern Studies for July, 1957.

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT
INCORPORATED

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Since the political situation in Egypt now gives some promise of stability, the American Research Center in Egypt has appointed two Fellows for research in that country during the coming season, 1957-1958. These Fellows, the first to be appointed under the three-year grant generously made to the Center by the Bollingen Foundation, are Mr. Edward F. Wente, Egyptologist, and Mr. John A. Williams, Islamicist. They were chosen from among a number of possible candidates after consultation with scholars in their respective fields and careful consideration by the Executive Committee.

Both candidates are young men in their late twenties, who have completed the requirements for their doctorates and are working on their theses. Both have had experience in Egypt as Fulbright scholars and both have an adequate knowledge of colloquial Arabic.

Mr. Wente, who has served very ably as representative of the Center in Egypt during the present season, hardly needs introduction to the Membership. It may be repeated that he is a graduate student of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, is preparing a dissertation in the field of Late Egyptian philology, and has wide experience in Egyptian archaeology, as is shown by his communications to the Membership, which form the greater part of this Newsletter.

Mr. Williams did his undergraduate work at the University of Arkansas and at the American University in Beirut, where he became interested in Islam. After study in Munich he went to Princeton, where he has been preparing a dissertation on a Sufi text of the 11th Century. He is greatly interested in the Dervish Orders and proposes to work on the art and architecture of the zawiyahs of the Egyptian dervishes as well as to complete the research necessary for his thesis.

The Executive Committee has appointed Mr. Wente as Director in Cairo for 1957-1958. In order to reduce the administrative burden, Mr. Williams has been asked to serve as Co-Director. The address of the Cairo headquarters will be announced later. In the meantime, queries and communications intended for the Director may be addressed in care of

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